

Commerce aides confess to genocide

AMMAN (R) — Few days ago of former Jordanian dictator Hussein Committee, have confessed they were aware of genocide to commit. A lawyer told a summary hearing, former Deputy Prime Minister, and former Minister of Health, former Vice President Minister Marzouq, who then was the then prime minister, and the then prime minister, continued to all charges, but they did not formally plead in court. The trial was adjourned after a few-and-a-half-hour hearing session. During the hearing, Marzouq told the court, he was a convert not to have opposed Commerce's orders to shoot protesters in the Transjordan town of Tafas. The killing in Tafas was reported the revolution which happened in December 1972. He and his lawyer were arrested Dec. 22.

Volume 15 Number 4361

AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1990, RAJAB 2, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily pub.

the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times

French defence minister in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement arrived Saturday for talks as Iraq sought advanced technology for its defence and aerospace industry. The visit comes seven weeks after Iraq launched its first space rocket and announced it had built a second missile, developed with Argentina and Egypt and capable of reaching Israel. Chevènement, the first French minister to visit Iraq since the end of hostilities in the Gulf war, is accompanied by senior officers and high-ranking officials of his ministry. He will meet with President Saddam Hussein as well as defence minister Abid Shashani and senior Iraqi army officers. Chevènement also will tour Iraqi air bases and army camps. France is the second largest arms supplier to Iraq after the Soviet Union. During the Gulf war it sent millions of dollars in sophisticated weapons including warplanes and air-to-air missiles. Iraq is seeking advanced technology for its arms industries and France is seen as a major possible supplier of such products, especially in the satellite and aerospace industry.

Lower House committee proposes budget trimmings

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Finance Committee of the Lower House Saturday proposed slight trimmings in the 1990 draft budget and the two houses launched a marathon session of debate on the recommendations. The House was meeting late into Saturday night, and officials said the deputies wanted to conclude the debate by Sunday evening so as not to disrupt plans for a meeting of the Joint Jordan-Syrian Higher Committee Monday. Syrian Prime Minister Muhammed Zouabi will head the Syrian side to the meeting.

The Finance Committee's report was presented to the House by its member, Abdulla Al-Akayeh. The report paid tribute to the "high degree of responsibility and reality" reflected in the austerity budget of JD 1,105 billion, which forecasts a deficit of JD 199 million. But it criticized past "mistakes" which led the Kingdom to dire economic straits.

The report said past policies and measures "almost led us to a complete lack of security and trust in the stability of the government to control the economy and develop it."

The Kingdom's debt has exceeded all internationally recognized limits and moved into a dangerous zone," said the report, which estimated repayment of the Kingdom's \$2.3 billion foreign debt, even after reschedulings, would be 27 per cent of the country's total income from exports — seven points above the internationally accepted safety line.

The committee asked Parliament to pass laws restoring lawmakers' budgetary authority over agencies such as universities, public companies and the Royal Jordanian Airlines.

It complained that it had no say on their budgets, which accounted for a third of government spending.

The committee generally approved the government's 1993 economic targets, worked out in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, but said it was doubtful over the country's ability to achieve them.

Those targets include calls to build foreign reserves to \$750 million from \$350 million, cut the budget deficit before aid to nine per cent from 20 per cent in 1988 and trim inflation to seven per cent from about 25 per cent last year, as well as raising real economic growth to four per cent a year from minus two per cent in 1988.

Deputies who spoke Saturday appeared to use the opportunity to air their opinion on issues not related to the budget and highlight the need for public services and facilities in their respective constituencies.

Deputy Awni Al Bashir said more attention should be given to ensure that food subsidies benefit the most needy sector of the society.

Deputy Ahmad Oweid Al Abbadi, a constant critic of the government, called for trial of former officials whom he accused of corruption and mismanagement.

Faisal Ben Jazi called for continued support for the Armed Forces and security departments, which, according to in-



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleh Arar (left) Saturday presides over the House session during discussions of the 1990 draft budget (photo by Yousef Al 'Aan)

Almud Kafaween referred to the budget as "traditional" and said it fell "short of tackling the problems of poverty and consolidating the socio-economic structure."

Thouqan Hindawi criticised the Financial Committee's report for not specifying the roots and causes of the economic problem. He said: "We would have thought that the committee would explain the reasons for

unemployment and the cost of living and propose solutions."

See excerpts from the deputies' speeches in inside pages.

"We have to reconsider how we pay these debts," said deputy Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, who said the Kingdom should study the idea of renegotiating the austerity plan it worked out last year with the IMF.

The committee complained that about one-third of govern-

ment spending is outside parliamentary control, in the hands of universities and public corporations. It urged lawmakers to pass measures correcting that situation.

Issa Raimouni said the deputies should form a committee to visit Arab states "to brief them on the Jordanian situation and to obtain financial assistance to Jordan suitable to the size of the problem we are suffering from."

The Finance Committee expressed thanks to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Dubai and Qatar for donating millions of dollars to the Kingdom in recent years.

"These debts have broken our economic back," complained Deputy Faris Nabilus. He suggested Jordan should seek debt forgiveness from lenders, citing a French proposal to write off many Third World debts.

2 Palestinians shot dead in village near Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians, Sunday in a clash with Arabs in a West Bank village on Jerusalem's outskirts.

Residents of Abu Dis village, 45, said Israeli soldiers opened fire at the two youths who had thrown stones at them, killing 16-year-old Abdallah Nabil Halabish instantly.

Abu Dis, on the eastern edge of Jerusalem, near a road to the Dead Sea, has been the site of numerous stone-throwing incidents during the 25-month-old Palestinian uprising.

A border police force clashed with masked Arabs in Abu Dis village and in the clash one of the masked men was wounded," an army spokesman said. "Later, a funeral was held in Abu Dis. The army is investigating the circumstances of the event."

Villagers said that after the youth was killed, his uncle, Mohammad Daoud Halabish, was called to the site of the clash.

When he tried to approach the body, the Israeli fired again, wounding him in the stomach and chest, they said.

A doctor at Arab Hospital, Mokhassid hospital said Halabish, 45, died shortly after he was brought to the emergency room.

He said another Abu Dis resident was wounded in the leg but released.

Abu Dis, on the eastern edge of Jerusalem, near a road to the Dead Sea, has been the site of numerous stone-throwing incidents during the 25-month-old Palestinian uprising.

The paramilitary border police, which Palestinians say they fear more than the army, patrols Arab Jerusalem and nearby Arab villages.

Carbomb explodes near leading Shi'ite cleric's home in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A car bomb exploded near the home of Lebanon's highest Shi'ite Muslim cleric Saturday, but the assassination attempt failed when the moving vehicle hit a mound of earth and the charge ignited too far from the target, police reported.

A police statement said an unidentified driver jumped out of the explosive-packed Renault 12 sedan as it moved into the alley

time. The charge ignited too far from the target, police reported.

The car drifted to the left, "hit

a sand rampart roadblock and exploded about 150 metres from the house, causing no casualties or serious damage," said the spokesman.

Shamseddin, 55, is vice chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, that leads day-to-day spiritual affairs of the 1.5 million Shi'ite Muslims who make up Lebanon's largest sect.

Shamseddin took over after the council's chairman, Imam Musa Sadr, mysteriously disappeared in September 1978 during a visit to

Shamseddin is a moderate who sympathises with Amal's chief Shi'ite Berri, who is also minister of water and hydraulic resources in the government of President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

Berri — Mohtashemi now

Berri was locked in a war of words with former Iranian Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the hardliner who founded Hezbollah when he was ambassador to Syria in the early 1980s.

Berri, in a statement published Saturday, accused Mohtashemi of working to "pratition Lebanon's Shi'ites" and branded him as "the Brutus of the Islamic revolution," a reference to the assassin of Julius Caesar.

Berri was responding to charges by Mohtashemi that Amal was adopting a policy against Hezbollah similar to that followed by Israel against the Palestinians.

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demanded to force them to share the new party with conservatives and hardliners.

Delegates said they wanted a credible social democratic party without the conservatives, and would boycott Sunday's congress session if the PUWP was not disbanded immediately.

The congress was scheduled to disband the PUWP Saturday and then hold the founding congress of a new party on Sunday and Monday.

Progressives said a proposal to disband the PUWP and create a new party was formed, was a

maneuver to force them to share the new party with conservatives and hardliners.

Inside the pillar hall, a gift to

Poland from Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, progressive Communists told reporters hundreds of their delegates would walk out if the congress failed to disband the old Polish United Workers Party (PUWP).

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PLO, Arabs lobby Soviets to stop Jewish influx

TUNIS (R) — Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are trying to persuade Moscow to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, senior Palestinian officials said.

A PLO official in Tunis said Saturday that the PLO's 15-member Executive Committee would meet in Tunis Monday to discuss emigration by Soviet Jews.

Arab countries were also holding contacts in Moscow and with Soviet ambassadors in their capitals, the officials said.

"Arab states are discussing the issue with Soviet ambassadors in each Arab capital," the PLO officials told Reuters.

He said Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's political department, Thursday discussed the issue with the Soviet ambassador in Tunis.

"Arab diplomats in Moscow have reported that the Soviet Union showed some signs that it is willing to revise the issue," he added, but did not elaborate.

In Abu Dhabi, the Al Bayan newspaper Saturday quoted Salah Salah, a politburo member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), as saying the PLO was making efforts to stop the Jewish influx.

"The PLO has received information from some Soviet ambassadors in the region that

Moscow is officially revising this issue," he said.

Soviet reforms have eased restrictions on Jewish emigration and Israel expects 50,000 immigrants to arrive this year.

"It is a dangerous issue," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saad Al Osaimi told a press conference at the Foreign Ministry.

"This immigration (to Israel) is an annoying development and does not help the quest of stability and peace in the region," Osaimi said.

"We think that the settlement of the Jews in the occupied Arab territories at this juncture is a violation of U.N. resolutions and policies of the West European countries and the United States," he added.

Osaimi said Kuwait holds "the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, and its permanent members responsible" to stop settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

Osaimi did not directly criticise the Soviet Union.

"I think the situation is serious. I think the Arab League is studying now something about this," he said. "This type of issue must win the attention of the Arab League and be among the top priorities at its coming meetings."

Kuwaiti appeal

Kuwait Saturday called on the

Moroccans denounce comic-strip Koran

RABAT (R) — Muslim theologians in Morocco said Saturday the publication of a comic-strip version of the Koran was sacrilegious.

The Moroccan League of Ulama appealed to booksellers to boycott the book and called on the authorities to "take appropriate measures to spare the country this heresy."

In a statement published by the pro-government daily *Le Matin*, the theologians said the comic-strip Koran was "a sacrilegious and absurd act, a deformation of the holy book's verses, and an attack on the inviolability of the Prophet Mohammad."

Tunisia's mufti, Sheikh Mohammad Mokhtar Al Salami, urged parents last week to keep the book, "Tell Me a Story From the Koran," away from their children.

Beirut papers publish appeals to kidnappers

BEIRUT (AP) — Two Beirut newspapers Saturday published an appeal for the release of three American educators kidnapped by Iranian-backed extremists three years ago.

"We plead with those in a position to help to ensure the release of our professors," said a statement released by Beirut University College (BUC), where the three taught.

"Those teachers taught with sincerity and diligence for many years and shared difficulties and dangers with their colleagues," the communiqué added.

The Arabic-language statement was carried by Al Nahar and Al Safir dailies.

Alana Steen, Robert Pohill and Jessie Turner were kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987, from the campus of the American-affiliated BUC in the city's western sector by gunmen disguised as policemen.

Islamic Jihad (holy war) for the

Liberation of Palestine, an underground pro-Iranian group, claimed responsibility for their abduction.

A fourth BUC educator kidnapped with the Americans, Mithileshwar Singh, an Indian national and resident alien of the United States, was released Oct. 1988, after 20 months in captivity.

Steen, 50, of Arcata, California, taught journalism at BUC.

Pohill, 55, formerly of New York, was assistant professor of business and lecturer in accounting at the college.

Turner, 42, of Boise, Idaho, was a visiting professor of mathematics and computer science.

Fifteen other westerners are held hostage in Lebanon. They include five other Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

Outgunned and trapped, Aoun becomes a cult figure

By DONNA ABU NASR
The Associated Press

Baabda, Lebanon — Increasingly isolated and cornered in a Christian enclave, rebel General Michel Aoun has become a cult figure for young supporters of his campaign to drive the powerful Syrian army out of Lebanon.

Every day, hundreds of his loyalists pay homage to him at the shell-shattered presidential palace atop a hill in suburban Baabda, which he has turned into the "home of the people."

Children smash open their clay piggy banks at Aoun's feet while business men spill wads of banknotes from plastic bags to aid his seemingly hopeless cause.

Much of this is pure theatre, stage-managed by Aoun's aides. On some days, when there are not enough supporters for his television cameras to portray as a big crowd, aides with bullhorns marshall the faithful to huddle together in the middle of the courtyard so the cameras can give the impression there is.

To his foes, the Syrians and their allies, Aoun is everything

from a misguided fool to a dangerous megalomaniac whose lust for power not only blocks efforts to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war but could unleash more bloodshed and destroy what's left of the country.

To Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, Aoun is "a clown, a clever clown."

Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, snorted recently that the chubby general "has become nothing but a television show."

But for young people in the enclave, ringed on three sides by hostile forces and by the Mediterranean on the other, Aoun is clearly their champion — and no pushover.

An estimated half of the one million Christians living inside the enclave support the feisty general. Others, such as the right-wing Falangists and the Lebanese Forces militia, oppose him but have not dared to move against him.

Most nights at the Ouragan night club in east Beirut, young women flash V-for-victory signs with their fingers as they dance and shout "Aoun, Aoun."

That ended Aoun's term as in-

tern prime minister, which he had held since September, 1988, when President Amin Gemayel's term expired and parliament failed to elect a new leader.

But Aoun, whose 20,000 troops control the enclave, rejects the accord because it does not guarantee the withdrawal of the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon.

All 45 foreign ambassadors accredited in Lebanon have shunned Aoun since Hrawi's election. But the general vows to continue the "war of liberation" he launched last March to drive out the Syrians, even though his forces are heavily outgunned and outnumbered.

At least 929 people were killed and 2,744 wounded before the guns were silenced by an Arab League cease-fire Sept. 22.

Hrawi, who has sacked Aoun as army commander and interim prime minister, wants the palace so he can rule from the symbol of state authority. Aoun refused to recognise him or vacate the ruined palace.

His speeches, delivered from behind an armoured shield draped with the Lebanese flag, are often interrupted by shouts of "Syria get out" and "with our blood and souls we sacrifice ourselves to you, oh General."

Some of Aoun's more fervent supporters have elevated him to virtual sainthood.

When the winter rains soak them, supporters amend the



Four hundred Soviet Jews to Israel from Budapest aboard a chartered jumbo jet of the El Al airline last week. Israel is expecting the biggest wave of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union in history over the next three to five years.

East Germany seeking formal ties with Israel

VIENNA (AP) — East German Premier Hans Modrow said Friday he was seeking diplomatic relations with Israel and is prepared to discuss reparations for Nazi victims.

East Germany has never had full diplomatic relations with Israel because it refused to accept any responsibility for the "holocaust."

"There will probably be negotiations and the problem of reparation will be aired," Modrow told reporters at a news conference after talks with Austrian leaders.

Most other East European nations followed the Soviet Union in breaking diplomatic ties with the Jewish state following the 1967 war.

But diplomatic ties with Israel now are being revived throughout Eastern Europe as more democratic governments take over from one-party communist cabinets. Hungary became the first to resume relations last September.

Unlike West Germany, East Germany has always refused to pay reparations for Nazi atrocities and confiscations, claiming it constituted the anti-Nazi resistance during the war and bore no responsibility for Hitler's actions.

Modrow told reporters he hoped that East and West Germany could swiftly agree on measures to stabilise currency exchange rates at one West German mark equalling three East German marks.

That is the current official rate, but black marketeers continue to change at rates of around 10 East German marks to one West German.

He also envisaged broader cooperation and treaties with Bonn, bearing "Hallmarks of confederation," but declined to

be more specific.

"The future for both German states in the European house will be revealed only in the future," he said.

Cypriot Communist Party splits

NICOSIA (AP) — A split between hardliners and reformers in Cyprus' politically powerful Communist Party, Akel, widened with the reported resignation Saturday of seven members from the party's 40-member central committee.

The Cyprus News Agency reported that the resignations late Friday night included Andreas Ziartzides and Pavlos Dinglis, the president and secretary-general of the Akel-controlled Pancyprian Trade Union Confederation.

Both are also members of parliament.

The seven followed the resignation from the committee earlier Saturday of its secretary, veteran Communist Andreas Fantis, and last week of committee member Michael Papapetrou.

The agency said the resignations were in protest at undemocratic methods and resistance to reforms by party hardliners, led by party General Secretary Dimitris Christofas. The reform demands have been inspired by the policies of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and the upheaval in East Europe.

The latest resignations came after the hardline majority voted Friday night to warn reformers against their criticism of party policies and to relieve Ziartzides and Dinglis of their official duties.

S. Arabia kicks off novel anti-drug drive

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's anti-drug caravan has given an official send-off Saturday by the Riyadh vice governor, Prince Sattam, and diplomats including U.S. ambassador Charles Freeman.

The 600-metre-long caravan is made up of five trucks, 25 sedans, an armoured vehicle, a horse-drawn cart carrying a marching band, eight camels and patrol police cars. It began a five-day tour in the capital as helicopters hovered above.

Crowds of Saudi men cheered in the parking lot of the Saudi Sports Stadium, the starting point for the caravan.

The lot was filled with white tents containing visual displays, books, stickers, and pamphlets on drug abuse. The United States Information Service helped provide anti-drug leaflets for the helicopters to shower.

Helium-filled balloons, brightly coloured flags and streamers brightened the atmosphere.

The caravan, the kingdom's most ambitious anti-drug information campaign to date, will visit 11 other cities around the kingdom before continuing to spread its message to neighbouring Gulf countries and other Arab states in the region.

"Parades, festivals, shows, competitions and gifts will ensure bigger attendance to the caravan and will hence enable us to distribute more pamphlets and books against drugs," said Maiman.

Naccache ends hunger-strike in jail

PARIS (Agencies) — Anis Naccache, serving life in prison for the attempted assassination of an Iranian exile leader, decided Friday to call off his 19-week hunger strike, the Justice Ministry said.

The ministry said Naccache informed officials at Fréteins prison of his decision to end his fast without giving any explanation.

Naccache, who was born in 1951 in Beirut, contends that France promised to free him in the deal that won the release in May 1988 of all French hostages then held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

France has already repaid \$630 million of the disputed money. It has withheld the final payment because it is claiming compensation from Iran for French firms, which lost business after the Iranian revolution.

It was not known if Vaezi discussed Naccache in Paris.

Spanish authorities deported a Lebanese Friday and he was taken away by Syrian security men, apparently for questioning, on arrival in Beirut.

Ali Mustafa Berri said he was expelled because he had no residence permit after living in Spain for the past three years.

Two Spanish policemen accompanied Berri on the Middle East Airlines plane to Beirut from Madrid.

Spanish police arrested eight Arabs last November after finding a large cache of explosives in a cargo of jam.

Iranian plea

A plea from Iranian leaders persuaded Naccache to end the hunger strike, his lawyer said Saturday.

Jacques Verges told Reuters Naccache's mother visited him on Friday and passed on a message from Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani asking him to end the fast.

Verges also said French authorities had agreed to Naccache's demand that he should be jailed alongside the four other members of a command involved in the failed attempt to assassinate Bakhtiar.

A Justice Ministry spokesman refused to comment on Verges' statement that authorities had agreed to Naccache's demand.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:20 Cultural programme
19:00 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:50 Tel Pere Tel Fis
18:15 L'école de fans
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic.
21:10 Who's the Boss?
21:15 Doc, "Spectac'!"
22:00 News in English
22:20 Game Set and Match

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632783.

St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440.

De Salle Church, Tel. 661757.

Terrasson Church, Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

American Church, Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church, Tel. 771751.

Anton International Church, Tel. 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tel. 611292.

Dr. Taysir Al Sa'di 777636

Dr. Moustafa Khader 666857

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim 666854



King receives Tunisian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Tunisian Minister of Information Al Habib Bul Iris who delivered to him a message from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali dealing with the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and their impact on the Arab region in general and the Palestine problem in particular.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin and the Tunisian

ambassador to Jordan. Later, the Tunisian minister told Jordan Television that he heard the King's views with regard to Arab issues and challenges confronting the Arab World. We discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing bilateral cooperation in a manner that would serve the peoples of Tunisia and Jordan, the minister added.

He said he would be carrying the King's views to the Tunisian president.

Hotel helps charity work

AMMAN (J.T.) — In'am Mufti, director-general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, receiving the proceeds of the charitable fashion show organised by the management of Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental that took place Dec. 6, 1989 on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The cheque was presented by Majed Khalil, general-manager of Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (see photo).



RSS supervises airport reservoir repair

AMMAN — Experts of the Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Building Research Centre have provided consultation and supervision services related to repair and supervision of the firewater reservoir at Queen Alia international airport. The reservoir, which holds 8,200 cubic metres of water, suffered from a severe leakage problem where about 100 cubic metres of water were lost daily. Such a loss would jeopardise the airport's capabilities to promptly deal with fire accidents.

The RSS conducted an extensive study of the problem upon request from the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications and presented a solution to the leakage problem. Furthermore, the RSS was assigned the duty to supervise the execution of the repair work.

This one-year project consisted of full scale lining of the reservoir using polyethylene sheets of 1.5 mm. thickness in addition to the repair and maintenance of different structural elements.

Upon the completion of the project, the reservoir was found to be waterproof and the leakage problem was successfully eliminated — RSS News.



Azerbaijan front offers talks

(Continued from page 1) the southern Soviet republic, had agreed to send representatives to the Latvian capital of Riga Jan. 31.

Armenian activists had announced Thursday that the Armenian All-National Movement would send a delegation to Riga.

However, Romaldus Razhukas, a director of the Latvian People's Front, said in a telephone interview from Riga that the Azerbaijanis had set a condition: They would only agree to hold direct talks with the Armenians if the Republic of Armenia renounced its claim to a disputed part of Azerbaijan's territory.

The Armenians have demanded that the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, a predominantly Armenian enclave, be united with Armenia.

The Azerbaijanis want to limit the talks to the question of refugees, humanitarian issues and securing the withdrawal of Soviet troops sent to quell the national uprising and ethnic bloodshed in the two Caucasus mountain republics.

Activists in the Baltic republics have something of a stake in peacefully resolving the ethnic strife in Azerbaijan. They fear that the continued use of force by Moscow could set the stage for

similar intervention in their own republics, which have netted the Kremlin with calls for greater autonomy.

The TASS news agency said Saturday that 125 people, including 27 soldiers, had died in clashes between soldiers and militants since the troops pushed into the city Jan. 20, crushing barricades built by rebels to keep them out.

Conflicting signals appeared to be emerging from the Soviet leadership on whether the intention was to settle the crisis by force or talks.

Yazov's statements as reported by the government daily *Izvestia* Friday were uncompromising. He accused the front of trying to seize power in Azerbaijan and said the main reason the Soviet army went there was to smash it.

A top front leader, Ekhitar Mamedov, who flew to Moscow and told a news conference Thursday there should be talks with authorities was arrested the next day.

But radical deputies in the Soviet parliament said Friday they thought they had convinced first Vice President Anatoly Lukyanov of the need to recognise the front's massive support in Azerbaijan and talk its leaders.

TASS said 100 people had been detained in Baku under a military

decree which allows detention for up to 30 days of those who "violate public order or spread false rumours" or provoke strikes and rallies.

The Soviet trade union newspaper *Trud* said members of the front were going underground to avoid arrest. In Baku, front member Nadzhat Nadzhafov said many people were staying away from their homes because they feared being picked up by police.

Baku's military commander Vladimir Dubinyak told TASS troops had foiled a front attempt to take over a number of buildings. He said they had found more than 1,000 military uniforms and a considerable quantity of ammunition at front headquarters.

Dubinyak said those detained included Rakhami Gadzhiev, a leader of the Council of National Defence, which is affiliated with the Popular Front.

Mahomet Gataami, leader of a self-styled organisation called National Liberation, was arrested for inciting ethnic riots, Dubinyak said.

Trud, in its report from Baku, described a city under military occupation. Helicopters circled overhead, troops patrolled the streets in flakjackets and military vehicles guarded major intersections.

Private sector suggests taking over meat supply

AMMAN (J.T.) — Merchants have proposed to the government that they take over the task of providing the local markets with sufficient quantities of fresh meat in the wake of shortages in the market and a halt of shipments from Eastern Europe.

Merchants' representative Mohammed Asfour suggested in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the private sector be allowed to import large numbers of live sheep together with fodder so that the animals can be slaughtered here and sold later at far lower cost than imported fresh meat and local meat.

Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce said that normally sheep exporters dispatch fodder to feed the animals for at least 30 days and there were numerous companies abroad which were willing to supply the live sheep.

Importing consignments of live sheep sufficient for six months will cost less than importing fresh meat in smaller quantities from

any sources, Asfour said.

The government should facilitate such procedure and reduce customs duty on the sheep estimated at JD 10 per head, Asfour said. In return, he said, the government can end the subsidies on animal feed to stock breeders.

Jordan used to import fresh meat from Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey in aircraft loads costing a great deal of money, but still the meat was sold at lower cost than the locally produced meat.

In view of the shortage of fresh meat, the Ministry of Supply recently imported increased quantities of frozen meat mainly from New Zealand and opened more centres in Amman and other towns to sell meat.

Jordan has almost three million heads of sheep, according to official sources but they are not sufficient to cover country's needs.

The Ministry of Supply recently announced that it was importing more quantities of frozen fish to partly make up for the shortage of meat.

W. Bank students score well in Jordan Tawjihi

AMMAN (Petra) — A very high percentage of students in the occupied West Bank who sat for the tawjihi examination has passed and the results will be released there Sunday, the director of the Examination Department at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obeidat, said Saturday.

The West Bank examination committee director has been provided with application forms for Jordanian universities to facilitate the admission of West Bank students through the Ministry of Education, Obeidat said. Three per cent of the seats are reserved for West Bank students, he added.

The tawjihi results in the Kingdom will be released after Feb. 5, he said.

The Ministry of Higher Education

has urged West Bank students who passed the tawjihi examination in 1989 and wish to attend community colleges in Jordan to check with the colleges they like to attend so that applications can be submitted from Sunday and no later than Feb. 1.

Students will be accepted in accordance with their averages and reserved seats, and the names of accepted students will appear in the local papers no later than Feb. 5, a ministry spokesman said.

Jordan stepped in to help West Bank tawjihi students when it became clear that examinations could not be held in the occupied territories because of the 26-month uprising there and the measures imposed by the occupied authorities.

'Protection from drugs' seminar begins today

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University, in cooperation with the Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Monday hosts a symposium entitled "Protection from Drugs."

UNESCO Representative Mohammad Khawaldeh said in a statement that 40 participants from various Arab countries would take part in the symposium, which will discuss drugs and drug addiction in general and causes that lead to addiction and the effects of drugs on human health.

Khawaldeh said that Yarmouk University was chosen as a venue for the symposium because it had the potential for designing and implementing a project aimed to introduce the subject of "protection against drugs" into university courses — on a trial basis before applying these courses in other Arab countries.

This subject, he said, is designed as a part of the general efforts to rid society of the danger of drugs addiction and to involve the educational sector in spreading awareness among the public against drugs and their serious consequences.

The symposium, which will last until the end of the new university semester ending in May, will provide the participants with sufficient basic information and knowledge on drugs and their types and nature and the way they are used by addicts as well as their adverse effects on society as a whole, Khawaldeh added.

He said ways to counter addiction and to spread awareness in society, and various public and private sectors could also be reviewed.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ACO MEETING IN MOROCCO: The Greater Amman Municipality is participating in the ninth meeting of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) due to open at Marakesh, Morocco, Monday. The ACO's permanent office is holding the four-day meeting to discuss a general report by its secretariat and to endorse a general budget for the past four years as well as for the next three years. Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suhaimat, who left for Marakesh Saturday at the head of a delegation to take part in the meeting, said the delegates would discuss the ACO's activities and programmes in the next three years and elect a new secretary general. Among the topics on the agenda, Suhaimat said, is the function of an ACO fund which provides loans to Arab cities.

SPORTS MEETING IN TUNIS: Jordan will participate in the meetings of the Arab Sports Federation technical committee due to begin in Tunis Monday. The three-day meetings will touch on a number of subjects related to Arab sporting activities and the federation's future plans. Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the federation's general secretariat will participate in the meetings (Petra).

ARAB-SOVIET TIES: Palestine's ambassador to the Soviet Union Saturday delivered a lecture at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in which he dealt with recent developments in the Socialist bloc and the Soviet Union, and their influence on Arab issues. Nabil Ami said that these developments significantly affected the Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian problem and said that it is hard to predict the consequences of these developments at this time. He said the immigration of Soviet Jews should be confronted at the Arab and Islamic levels since colonialism threatens not only Palestine, but also other Arab countries (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Al Jaloos at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ A Soviet film entitled "Torpedo vessel" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "La Bamba" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Schoolchildren with Syrian peace walker. Ahmed Al Jubeli

A messenger of peace

By Salwa Al Taher

AMMAN — It was 20 Celsius

and hailing, but nothing could deter the children from their march. They gathered at the Artists Association on that grey Friday morning to bid Syrian traveller Ahmed Al Jubeli farewell. They agreed to walk him out of Amman, by taking him to the airport road on his way to Saudi Arabia. In the twelve days he spent in Jordan, Jubeli became the children's friend.

Jubeli is undertaking a 90,000 km walk around the world, as a messenger of peace. He started his trip in the Syrian city of Kurnaitra Sept. 2, 1987 and plans to end it at Hiroshima in 1993. He has divided it into five phases. The first phase is over and in it he walked 16,000 km around Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia and the USSR.

Why Kurnaitra and Hiroshima? Obviously because both cities suffered so much from wars. A therapist from Aleppo, Jubeli, was exposed to a great number of war victims. Seeing so many children suffer spurred him to take his walk under the slogan: everything for childhood.

This unusual traveller carries 40 kg on his back and walks an average of 40 km a day. In his bag are his personal tent, a radio, a compass, binoculars, a small pharmacy and letters to all the rulers of the world. He

also flies six flags; Syria's, Japan's, the flag of the host country, the U.N.'s, the flag of the World Peace Council and one with the emblem of the journey; Save the children of the world.

So far, many international organisations — UNICEF, the International Red Cross, etc., feminist agencies, student unions as well as many world leaders have extended their appreciation and support. In Jordan Jubeli met His Majesty King Hussein, who blessed his efforts. He visited schools, universities, hospitals, and Parliament. People everywhere were responsive and hospitable.

An idealist on an impossible mission. Ahmed Jubeli? A lone voice in the wilderness? May be. But one that reaches deep and haunts the heart and the memory.



Meeting prepares for Jordanian-Syrian talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Syrian preparatory committee began meetings in Amman Saturday to prepare for the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee scheduled to open in Amman Monday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zou'bi.

During the first session, discussions dealt with the recommendations of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee in the meetings, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf said.

A Jordanian economic delegation, led by Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Ziyad Fariz, held extensive talks last week in Damascus with senior Syrian officials yielding identical views on means to consolidate ties of cooperation in all spheres.

MUSEUM IN AQABA: Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kababri Friday inspected the residence of late Sharif Hussein Ben Ali in Aqaba and was briefed on arrangements being undertaken to use the residence as a museum. He also inspected work under way at the Greater Arab Revolt Yard, abutting the residence, which will be used as a touristic facility (Petra).

Former politburo member held

(Continued from page 1)

planned in May.

Opposition representatives declined to say which ministerial posts they will demand when they open talks with Modrow, scheduled for Sunday.

"It is simply becoming clear that our responsibility is to keep the country governable," Wolfgang Schmid, chairman of the conservative Democratic Awakening Movement, said in an interview on West Germany's ZDF television network after the announced accord.

Friday's hard-won show of unity by a disparate opposition suggested that the reform groups feel the risk of domestic chaos currently outweighs the worry about being tainted by associating with those currently in power.

DISTINGUISHED JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading officer in Amman is seeking to employ a female translator with the following qualifications:

1. University degree.
2. Excellent command of both Arabic and English.
3. Typing, in both Arabic and English, using an IBM personal computer. Knowledge of Wordstar Word Processing is a plus.
4. Minimum of 3 years experience.

Working hours are from 9:30-5:00. Salary and other fringe benefits, according to qualifications.

Kindly send resume with a recent photo to:

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Amman, Jordan

Applications must be received no later than Feb. 15, 1990.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Minding rules of democracy

THEY met in a marathon parliamentary session yesterday to discuss the government draft budget. Many spoke at length. The subject was not always the budget, however. Their speeches included some economics and finances, as indeed they should. But the right honourables took the liberty to talk about everything under the sun as well.

It is all right if some members of Parliament want to or did in fact talk about problems faced by their constituents, and hospitals and hotels needed by their constituents, during a budget debate. They can discuss East-West relations and the situation in Guatemala if they so wish. But it is not a healthy sign for our budding democracy when members of the House start using the forum to launch personal attacks and level unsubstantiated accusations against one another and certain individuals and institutions in our country.

We are not defending any particular person or group of people who might have misused their power or abused the law in the past. In the same vein, we are not trying to protect any particular institution which might have failed to function properly. But there are basic rules of democracy which should not be ignored or broken by our deputies. We are talking here about some words said yesterday that were so illogical and wrong that they had to be censored.

Let deputies say what they want and all they want. Our parliamentary democracy, new and budding as it is, can contain them. But let it also be known that the right of speech which all Jordanians are enjoying today should not be abused by libellous accusations and meaningless rhetoric, from whatever source these come from.

It may be unfair to leave all discussion of the important issues that were raised during yesterday's session, and to dwell on only one aspect of the debate. But it is extremely important, we think, to keep reminding ourselves of the basic rules of democracy. Those rules entail objective thinking and scientific analysis. They entail study and research — and not just empty words and hollow actions.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday commented on Prime Minister Muqrin Badran's statement published in the press about the Palestine issue and his assertion that all Palestinians who hold Jordanian nationality have the same rights like all other Jordanians. The paper said however, no one can take away the Palestinian identity from the soul of any Palestinian citizen living in Jordan or in any other country. Al Ra'i said that claims by Israel that Jordan should serve as the Palestinian homeland is mad thinking. It referred to the prime minister's reference to Jewish immigration in Palestine and said how can this take place at the expense of the oppressed people who are now asked to have a homeland in Jordan. The paper said Jordan stands by Syria and, together thus form a united front in the face of Israel. The paper echoed Badran's assertion that Jordan was keen on protecting Syria's security and vice versa. The paper said Jordan welcomes a visit by the Syrian prime minister at the head of a delegation on Monday and believes that the visit and the talks of the Joint Jordanian Syrian Higher Committee will further contribute towards bolstering bilateral cooperation in all fields.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily says that the Ministry of Supply does not have the intention of harming the interests of supply merchants and for this reason both parties ought to reach a compromise agreement over the question of the food supplies. Salih Abdin Samad says that the minister of supply has already denied any intention on the part of the ministry to impose any set of prices that would cause imbalance in the market, and at the same time cannot accept all the merchants demands for increasing prices. The writer says that if the Supply Merchants Association does not declare its justification for demanding a higher price, then it cannot continue putting pressure on the ministry which now says that all food supplies have already been priced and that the merchants are demanding an increase to make up for the additional cost due to the devaluation of the dinar. Pressure is one of the worst and unproductive way of dealing with any issue and, therefore, should not be adopted here by any party if it wants to safeguard national interest. Abdin Samad adds. He says that this question ought to be settled amicably and with responsibility.

Al Dustour Al Dustour Arabic daily on Saturday discussed the question of Soviet Jewish immigration which, it said, is being carried out under the pretext of protecting human rights. The usurpation of Arab land in Palestine and the denial of the human rights of the Palestinian people so as to settle one million Jews are all being carried out in the name of human rights, said the paper. The convergence of Jews on Palestine from Ethiopia and the Soviet Union will no doubt call for the creation of more settlements to absorb them and will consequently lead to the uprooting of more Palestinian Arabs from their homeland, the paper added. The natural result of such action is war, and a cancellation of peace efforts on the part of the Zionist rulers. The paper said that the Arabs are now left with no Soviet friends who used to provide weapons and diplomatic support; and they should make it clear to Moscow that it must realise that its surrender to U.S.-Israel demands is considered a violation of Arab human rights.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Options to tackle unemployment

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE SIZE of the Jordan's labour force is approximately 875,000, while job opportunities available in the country are around 650,000. This makes structural unemployment stand at 225,000, or 26 per cent of the work force.

However, not all Jordanians are working in Jordan. Jordanian expatriates are estimated at 275,000, mostly in Arab Gulf states. On the other hand not all those working in Jordan are Jordanians. Guest workers are estimated at 150,000. To complete the chart of the Jordanian labour market we have to point out that Jordanians working in Jordan are in the order of 500,000 and unemployed Jordanians are 100,000.

Some countries import labour, others export labour. There must be countries that import labour and export labour at the same time, but there is definitely no country, other than Jordan, that exports over a third of its own labour force, and imports over a quarter of those working within its boundaries at the same time.

The above estimates suggest that unemployment is around 11.5 per cent of the total number of Jordanians who are able and willing to work, or 15.5 per cent of those working in Jordan including non-Jordanians.

Five years ago, official figures suggested that unemployment stood at 8 per cent. Since then officials continued to quote the same figure. If this were true in 1985/1986, when the economic development plan was under preparation, it would not be true

now because the Jordanian labour force is growing at 5 to 6 per cent a year while the economy is stagnating and unable to create new jobs. The Gulf markets ceased to absorb more Jordanians except to the extent that offsets the returning expatriates. Only recently the minister of finance quoted 10 per cent for unemployment in his budget speech. Last week the prime minister estimated unemployment at 15 per cent.

Jordanian decision-makers need to know their options to be able to tackle unemployment after having it reached this high level with all its social, economic and political consequences. There is an increasing awareness of the importance of this problem.

There are two ways of dealing with unemployment. One is artificial, visible and relatively easy: ask the government to employ part of the unemployed, and impose the remainder on the shareholding companies and public corporations. This solution creates underemployment, raises the cost, and reduces the efficiency. In the current circumstances, the government, corporations and companies cannot afford to pay more wages for unproductive work.

The second way is the real solution that creates more productive jobs through the addition to the overall productive capacity. This can come about by new investments in industry,

agriculture and services.

The government is not in a position to invest. Funds simply are not available, and external credit sources had dried out. Investment has to come from the private sector, domestic, Arab and foreign.

The private sector is now hesitant to invest, not due to lack of funds but due to the hurdles and risks caused by the government, such as arbitrary pricing and uncertainty concerning future policies.

Real investments are long term. Investors have to wait several years before they recover their capital. Therefore they cannot afford to get involved unless the future is predictable. They need stable laws and regulations. Nothing hurts the investment climate more than surprising surprises.

Beside improving the investment climate, the government needs to know the facts: numbers of the unemployed, their areas, ages, qualifications, experience, and duration of unemployment. Employment offices, training and retraining, and labour agreements with other countries have a role in alleviating unemployment.

But all these steps are meaningless as long as the domestic labour market continues to be out of control, and fully open to whoever is interested from outside Jordan, irrespective of the real

UNHCR faces uphill struggle to break deadlock

By Clare Nullis
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The first major challenge of new U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has been finding a solution to the deadlock between the United States and Britain over the emotional issue of sending back tens of thousands of boat people to chronically overcrowded Hong Kong.

"There is no objective justification for a delay in mandatory repatriation. But in the interests of consensus we were prepared to agree on a (six-month) moratorium," said Robin McLaren, the head of the British delegation.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian minister, has been given the task of negotiating directly with Washington and London in an attempt to salvage agreement on a starting date for the mandatory repatriation of Vietnamese who do not qualify for refugee status.

A 30-nation meeting broke up in disarray late Jan. 24 after U.S. officials insisted no one should be forcibly returned to Vietnam before Jan. 1, 1991, thereby blocking consensus on a proposed starting date of next July 1.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees had proposed the six-month suspen-

sion of mandatory repatriations as a half-way compromise between U.S. demands and Britain's arguments that deportations should begin immediately to deter another mass influx of boat people into chronically over-crowded Hong Kong.

"There is no objective justification for a delay in mandatory repatriation. But in the interests of consensus we were prepared to agree on a (six-month) moratorium," said Robin McLaren, the head of the British delegation.

Although the two-day meeting ended without agreement because of the difficulties on timing, it marked the first time that a measure of international consensus has been reached that Vietnamese deemed to have fled economic want rather than political persecution should be returned to their homeland even against their will.

"We do have agreement on mandatory repatriation. What we don't have is a date," McLaren told journalists.

U.S. officials, relaxing the outright opposition to forced repa-

riations, told the meeting they would not block international consensus to the forcible return of economic migrants, according to sources present at closed session.

For the first time at an international gathering Vietnam also agreed to take back thousands of its former countrymen and women returned against their will as part of a U.N.-supported programme.

However, Hanoi said there should be no forced returns before Oct. 1 to allow time for preparations to absorb the returnees into its stricken economy, where unemployment has been boosted by the thousands of soldiers returning from Cambodia.

For its part the UNHCR, a long-time opponent of forcible repatriations, said it would help monitor those deported to Vietnam provided agreement was reached in Geneva.

But the prospects of Stoltenberg negotiating an accord between the United States and Britain do not look promising.

Britain's McLaren was clearly

annoyed at the U.S. refusal to compromise despite support for the six-month moratorium from 28 of the 30 countries represented at the meeting. He said it was up to the administration of U.S. President George Bush to rethink its policy on the timing of repatriation.

He added that he expected Stoltenberg to "take soundings" of U.S. views by the end of next week.

However, any efforts by Stoltenberg to persuade the United States to move on the timescale issue may be complicated by the apparent contraction in U.S. policy.

Although U.S. negotiators at the Geneva meeting softened their outright opposition to mandatory repatriation, Washington's official stance remains resolutely opposed to forcible repatriation in Geneva.

"I want to emphasise that the United States position on involuntary repatriation has not changed," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler

said in Washington.

The United States remains opposed, in principle and in practice, to involuntary repatriation," she said.

McLaren warned that the absence of an international agreement would not deter Britain from forcibly sending back boat people under a bilateral deal signed with Hanoi last year.

Last December 51 people classified as economic migrants rather than political refugees were deported to Vietnam from the British crown colony.

people in camps in the South East Asian countries of first asylum, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, according to UNHCR figures.

Of these, 56,000 are in Hong Kong. The 12,000 people who arrived before June 1988 were granted automatic refugee status. The rest are subject to screening procedures to determine if they class as genuine political refugees.

The UNHCR has said about 7,000 people have so far been screened in Hong Kong. Some 85 per cent of these were deemed to be economic migrants.

Since last March 1,100 people have returned voluntarily and a further 1,400 are registered to go back. All voluntary returnees receive \$50 from the refugee agency and qualify for a year's food aid from Hanoi.

In pressing for mandatory repatriation to be postponed until next year, the United States had argued that more time was needed to enable the voluntary programme to work.

Religious, nationalistic, ethnic factors fuel Caucasus turmoil

By Andrew Katell
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — What began as an attempt to settle a centuries-old territorial dispute has erupted into an all-out crusade by Azerbaijanis and Armenians to achieve ethnic, nationalistic and religious goals.

Suspicious and hostilities with deep historical roots are fueling the wave of unrest that began two years ago and escalated Jan. 13 into brutal ethnic attacks and open warfare.

The latent tension was exacerbated by current conditions in the Caucasus: The feeling that economic and political reforms have not improved people's lives in the largely undeveloped region plagued by unemployment and environmental woes.

Such diverse observers as chess champion Garry Kasparov, an Armenian Jew who fled the Azerbaijani capital Baku during the violence, and Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmerthyne agreed that ethnic and not religious motivations are foremost. Armenians are predominantly Christians and Azerbaijanis Shi'ite Muslim.

Western scholars call it an ethnic conflict with religious overtones.

Fanatical Azerbaijanis vowed to drive all Armenians off their land.

The Azerbaijani People's Front, which has spearheaded the anti-Armenian campaign, has also called for their republic to secede from the Soviet Union and establish "special ties" with Iran and other Islamic countries.

It is not just idle talk. Most Armenians were indeed forced out, and the People's Front was involved in the destruction of border defences on Soviet Azerbaijan's frontier with Iran earlier this month. Protesters called for reuniting Soviet Azerbaijan and the two Azerbaijani provinces of Iran, a region that was part of Persia until Russian expansion under the czars forced its division in 1828.

The current conflict has turned the rugged hills of the southern Caucasus into what even Soviet officials have called "the most protracted and bloodiest manifestations of the ethnic strife sweeping the Soviet Union and one of the most serious crises the president has

faced.

It has encompassed 15 million people, including residents of both republics, as well as members of the two ethnic groups living in neighbouring Georgia and southern Russia.

Tempers of Armenians and Azerbaijanis flared for nearly two years whenever politicians in Baku, the Armenian capital Yerevan or Moscow reached decisions concerning Nagorno-Karabakh, the poor, small, hilly district of 186,000 people, mostly Armenians, that is claimed by both sides.

Nagorno-Karabakh became a battle cry that woke up ancient hostilities between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The weekly Ogonyok magazine last week published an appeal to Armenians and Azerbaijanis to "win over each other with love and forgiveness, not weapons and fire." The appeal dates back to July 1905.

But there has been little attempt to hide the hatred.

As the feud produced hundreds of thousands of refugees, the hatred increased and the stones, torches and guns came out. Hostages were taken, railroad bridges blown up, water pipes severed and homes burned. Troops sent in to restore order were ambushed.

The voice of reason has been lost out to extremism, said Artyom Volsky, formerly the Kremlin's hand-picked administrator of Nagorno-Karabakh. The point was driven home to him after meeting with elderly Armenians and Azerbaijanis in a village.

"The oldsters emerged from the meeting in a mood of reconciliation. But young people, inflamed by nationalist rhetoric, did not go along with them," Volsky told the magazine New Times.

Much of the bitterness, he said, comes from refugees, who account for 10 per cent of the district's population.

"These uprooted people are behind all the rallies and disobedience campaign. They are the base for every kind of extremism," the Kremlin official said even before the latest and most bloody flare-up.

An estimated 22,000 Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan have settled in their home republic, many without jobs or homes and more than willing to take up arms

to fight those who drove them away. Unemployment in Armenia is reported to be 18 per cent.

Refugees are also prime recruits for ethnic militants in Azerbaijan, where unemployment is even higher, 27.6 per cent. More than 200,000 Azerbaijanis fled Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. The Soviet press has suggested it was these downrooted Azerbaijanis refugees who attacked Nagorno-Karabakh that historically has been peopled by Azerbaijanis.

Class antagonism also may have played a role. Many of the Armenians living in Baku were better educated than Azerbaijanis and financially in privileged positions because of their jobs in the oil industry that dominates the city.

National pride and sovereignty are other factors driving the unrest. Azerbaijanis saw Armenians' attempt to regain Nagorno-Karabakh as an insult to their national pride, and Moscow's attempts to mediate as an infringement on their sovereignty.

"Without Shusha, Azerbaijan has no soul," goes an Azerbaijani saying that refers to a town in Nagorno-Karabakh that historically has been peopled by Azerbaijanis.

Armenians, particularly sensitive to threats to their survival since an estimated 1.5 million of their ancestors perished at the hands of Ottoman Turks in 1915, are driven by the feeling that their people were discriminated against in Nagorno-Karabakh under Azerbaijani leaders, cut off from their home republic, deprived of their culture, religion and adequate schools and hospitals. They equate Azerbaijanis with Turks, whose language resembles theirs.

Deputies call on government to tackle economic crisis, reduce unemployment and preserve social fabric

Faris Nabulsi

Deputy Faris Nabulsi (Amman) criticised the draft budget by saying that parts of it were either unrealistic or misguided. He cited 10 areas in which the government could be taken to task in presenting its draft budget to Parliament.

On the question of revenues, Nabulsi urged the minister of finance to explain the reasons behind the government's "optimistic" projection of increased internal revenues from JD 117 million in 1989 to JD 212 million in 1990, and of increased income tax collection from JD 54 million in 1989 to JD 100 million in 1990, "especially in the light of depressed markets in Jordan, high unemployment and recession."

The Amman deputy called on the government to review its policy of exempting certain establishments, like the Housing Bank, from paying "taxes and fees" that they otherwise should pay.

On projected Arab financial aid to Jordan, which is estimated at JD 162.6 million in the draft budget, Nabulsi wanted to know whether the figure would be received in full, and if not, whether the government had plans to meet any shortfalls that might result from Arab and friendly countries not meeting their commitments to Jordan.

The deputy questioned the "assumption of increased foreign loans by 98% over 1989" and asked why Jordan could not avoid such loans since "we have lost confidence in their value in development."

Nabulsi also questioned budgetary policies on foreign and local debts and asked whether Jordan might not be able to avoid paying its foreign debts as part of a concerted effort by the Third World to solve the problem with developed countries.

On the issue of inflation, Deputy Nabulsi urged the finance minister to elaborate on the devaluation of the dinar and its effect noting that inflation was negative before the decline in the value of the Jordanian currency and then shot up to 25 per cent. He questioned whether the 13 per cent inflation envisaged in 1990 is in comparison to 1989 inflation or 1988 inflation figures.

Nabulsi called on the government to be selective in subsidising basic commodities so that poorer families can benefit from it.

He concluded by saying: "My understanding of the draft budget is that it is a plan to revitalise the economy and raise the standard of living. But since it depends on obscuring facts and does not differ much from earlier draft budgets which have led us to the present situation, I hereby announce my rejection of the draft budget."

Abdul Hafiz Alawi

Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi expressed support for the financial committee report and called for organising the administrative system to curb overspending. He underlined the need to increase spending on the National Aid Fund, the Ministry of Health, The Telecommunication Corporation, and the Ministry of Higher Education by increasing scholarship allocations.

Stressing the need to conduct a careful study of indebtedness, Alawi proposed a number of measures to control expenditure. These include withdrawing government as used by individuals, merging the Higher Council for Science and Technology with the Royal Scientific Society, cancelling the job of advisor at a number of ministries and departments, cancelling contract jobs which are usually held by people with high income, reducing the number of directors in some departments, restructuring the administrative system, controlling government vehicles all the time, evacuating all buildings with high rents occupied by Royal Jordanian as well as the National Medical Institution and other institutions, reducing the number of staff at Jordanian embassies, increasing the number of productive projects, and rationalising the consumption of fuel and electricity.

Deputy Alawi also discussed the needs of Madaba and Irbid district. He called for increasing the number of qualified imams, rehabilitating teachers and promoting education, improving medical services, increasing support for municipalities, exerting efforts to avoid water shortages in summer, promoting tourism, renovating buildings about to collapse, promoting sporting and cultural activities, and preserving the rights of labourers working at factories in the district. He, furthermore, called for solving humanitarian problems of Gazans living in Madaba camp and improving a number of services.

Mohammad Tarawneh,
Abdullah Zureiqat

Deputies Mohammad Tarawneh and Abdullah Zureiqat (Karak) questioned various figures which appeared in the budget both in revenues or expenditures. They made their joint remarks on taxes, higher government revenue and fees by asking how it could be achieved without imposing extra burden on the citizens.

The two deputies said that servicing Jordan's debts consumes 30 per cent of export earnings and, as such, Jordan should cooperate with other debtor countries and reconsider the agreements with the creditors to benefit the Kingdom in the first place.

Tarawneh and Zureiqat noted that in the absence of budgets for various independent government or semi-government institutions, the Parliament cannot formulate a total clear understanding of the Kingdom's finance especially that those institutions cover nearly JD 700 million in expenditure.

They stressed the unemployment issues citing nearly 60,000 people are without work. As well, they noted that subsidies were not fairly distributed giving as an obvious example more than 300,000 non-Jordanians who benefit from it. The deputies recommended that subsidies be shifted to productive areas which can turn basic food items currently being subsidised.

The deputies finally waged a fierce condemnation over the lack of sufficient agriculture allowances in the budget.

Ahmad Abbadi

Dr. Ahmad Aweidi Abbadi (Amman) went beyond the 1990 budget to launch attacks on information and medical areas.

However, in his economic coverage he requested a more fair pay to employees whose salaries shrank considerably in the past months due to high and unbearable inflation.

He called for stricter control on market operations to limit price increases on all items noting that many luxury items are essential nowadays.

Abbadi criticised the distribution of subsidies saying that thousands are beneficiaries when they should not be, especially foreign workers.

The Amman deputy did not spare corruption in his remarks by calling for harsh measures against all those who "steal funds or manoeuvre to manipulate public benefits."

Awani Al Bashir

Dr. Awani Al Bashir — Balqa — in his speech questioned the government policy of subsidies.

He said that subsidies benefited higher income groups at the expense of low-income citizens. He said that the percentage of families with a total income below JD 100 a month was 21 per cent in cities and 31 per cent in the countryside, and that 100,000 families have an average income between JD 100-150. He said that subsidies should be directed only to these groups.

Stressing the need to conduct a careful study of indebtedness, Alawi proposed a number of measures to control expenditure. These include withdrawing government as used by individuals, merging the Higher Council for Science and Technology with the Royal Scientific Society, cancelling the job of advisor at a number of ministries and departments, cancelling contract jobs which are usually held by people with high income, reducing the number of directors in some departments, restructuring the administrative system, controlling government vehicles all the time, evacuating all buildings with high rents occupied by Royal Jordanian as well as the National Medical Institution and other institutions, reducing the number of staff at Jordanian embassies, increasing the number of productive projects, and rationalising the consumption of fuel and electricity.

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Bashir blamed Jordan's problems on lack of proper planning. He said proper planning depended on accurate and precise information and statistics, but planners lack these tools.

He cited higher education plans that aimed at catering for the needs of neighbouring markets for Jordanian labour and said that because of inaccurate information Jordan ended up with thousands of community colleges graduates unable to find jobs.

Bashir urged the government to put planning at the head of its agenda and asked:

1) that a political decision give planning priority at government institutions.

2) that budget allocations of JD 8.5 million for research and development be rechannelled in a "sensible manner."

3) that every government institution should fully cooperate with the Department of Statistics.

Bashir urged the government to ensure the independence of government-owned funds by the appointment of professionals rather than politicians to run such establishment.

He said that although he understood that while pension revenues in the budget amounted to JD 13 million and expenditure JD 83 million, because the fund was still in its early years, he could not accept that Jordan Investment Corporation's profits from the investment of JD 252 million would only be JD 5 million — i.e. two per cent.

Bashir called on the government to support the General Federation of Jordanian Women to enable it to carry out its plans.

He called for cuts in the public expenditures of government institutions including Royal Jordanian, the Railway Corporation, the Armed Forces and the National Medical Institution.

Bashir then turned the debt of municipalities in the Balqa Governorate which he said should be rescheduled. He asked that 14 villages in the region be provided with electricity. He said that most people complain of high water bills and that many villages have no water networks. He also called for the building of health clinics in various parts of the governorate.

He said that while the Balqa Governorate is inhabited by seven per cent of the population, its allocation of university seats is only three-four per cent. He called for the building of new schools and the upgrading of existing ones.

Bashir called also for the building of country roads, post offices and consumer shops.

He also asked that the agriculture sector in the governorate be afforded priority and that water problems in the Jordan Valley region be addressed.

Bashir concluded by asking the government to reassess the situation at Abu Nusseir Housing District in order to help owners who have to pay instalment to be able to bear the brunt of the harsh times.

Hussein Mjalli

Deputy Hussein Mjalli (Jerash) requested the postponement of examining the budget until the Lower House looks into all temporary laws which the government based its budget upon, as well as all agreements which the

previous government had concluded with the IMF and the rescheduling of loans.

The deputy recommended that after a deep analysis of his requests the government should submit a new budget to be debated under new criteria noting that article 113 of the Constitution stipulates that if the general budget was not approved by the beginning of the new year, government spending should continue by special allocation — 12 to 1 ratio of each month of the previous budget.

Mjalli began his speech by emphasising that the budget is a "very strong weapon" which the government possesses and which cannot escape the screening of the Parliament as it translates the programmes and steps that the executive authorities plan to execute.

He stressed two facts which nobody should ignore. The first, he said, is Jordan's known heavy dependence on foreign aid and loans; and the second is the basic "threat to survival" which becomes more serious when unemployment and inflation and indebtedness complete the circle.

Mjalli called on the government to admit first of all that Jordanians are under heavy economic strains and that a national forum should discuss the crises to draw a strategy for Jordan during the 90s because no single group or government can shoulder the burden alone.

The Jerash deputy said that Jordan's agreements with the IMF, World Bank and other creditors should be thoroughly reviewed because these institutions confront Jordan for their own interest not the interest of the Jordanian people.

Mohammad Alawneh

Deputy Mohammad Alawneh called for "a new start based on logic, conducting criticism in its proper place and time, looking for the source of the problem and discussing it with its concerned side, and abiding by frankness and daring." Alawneh said that his views coincided with the financial committee report on the budget. He also criticised the failure to raise the tax on "high bracket income" citizens and on luxury items, imposing capital gains tax, and the continuation of the subsidies to the needy only.

Mjalli attacked "parasitic activities" and flatly rejected the privatisation banner in favour of developing and supporting the public sector.

Alawneh also called for proper maintenance of water pipes in Irbid Governorate to avoid water leakages and for promoting agricultural projects.

Faisal Al Jazi

Faisal Al Jazi — southern bedouins — urged the government to continue its support for the armed forces and security departments. He asked that a pension for armed forces personnel be raised. In the rest of his speech Jazi put forward several demands for his constituency. He asked that the Aqaba port and all factories in the south give priority to employing southerners instead of foreign workers.

He urged the government to open new roads, post offices and health clinics. He urged the government to solve the problems of land ownership in the south and to help farmers in the region reclaim land through government aid and the pumping of underground water. He said that some villages lack electricity and asked that the government build a high-voltage network for the region.

He also asked that the government should extend various services to the region and pledged to provide the land necessary for building government offices in the area.

In a clear reference to Deputy Ahmad Muneim Abu Zant's controversial speech in the Lower House of Parliament Jan. 1 during the government confidence session, Jazi said "Jordan will not allow anyone to compromise Jordan's security and stability; nor will Jordan allow any idiot to teach us about the country's history or the deeds of its men who died for the defence of Palestine."

Ahmad Kafaween

Deputy Ahmad Kafaween said that country's past should serve as a lesson for the future.

Calling on people with power to set good example to other sectors of the society, Kafaween branded the draft budget of being "traditional" and "falling short of finding clear solutions to tackle the problem of poverty and to consolidate socio-economic structure."

He also called for merging institutions that constitute a "burden on national economy" — such as the National Medical Institution, the Ministry of Youth, and Chief Justice Department — with other institutions.

He furthermore criticised the increase in expenditure in 1990 by 13 percent over the year before. He stressed that overtime work, which costs JD 3 million is being distributed as favours with only personal interests behind it. He called on the government to erect government building rather than rent them because that costs JD 4,728 dinars.

The budget failed to discuss activities of several institutions which has great effect on the national economy such as universities, the Central Bank of Jordan, and Royal Jordanian. The 1990 fiscal budget failed to provide directives to control the activities of government institutions and companies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Natural Resources Authority, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, Jordan Fertiliser Company, Jordan Potash Company, and Jordan Timber Company.

He called on the government to take measures towards addressing the problem of creeping urbanisation and towards developing local resources and giving local government more autonomy by adopting a decentralised approach.

Reflecting the same approach adopted by most other speakers Saturday, Bustanji called for austerity but went on urging the government to allocate funds for building infrastructural projects and public services for his constituency.

Yousef Azem

Ma'an Deputy Yousef Azem put the problems of unemployment, high prices and the decline in people's living standards as the main problems facing the Kingdom's economy.

He asserted that the government was exacerbating the unemployment problem by importing foreign manpower and creating imbalances in the labour market.

He also asked that the government should extend various services to the region and pledged to provide the land necessary for building government offices in the area.

In a clear reference to Deputy Ahmad Muneim Abu Zant's controversial speech in the Lower House of Parliament Jan. 1 during the government confidence session, Jazi said "Jordan will not allow anyone to compromise Jordan's security and stability; nor will Jordan allow any idiot to teach us about the country's history or the deeds of its men who died for the defence of Palestine."

He urged the government to open new economic ideas conforming with "the comprehensive Islamic approach." He urged the government to ease farmers' debts and to adopt a new Islamic banking system that would enable people to "participate in development of the country and attract Islamic capital from abroad."

Azem said the government should "solve or limit the poverty problem and enhance socio-economic values through implementing the zakat system and

establish a special institution to make collecting zakat obligatory."

He called for "a forceful adoption of the Islamic alternative and leaving an Islamic mark on all departments and institutions in all fields so that the Islamic alternative would gradually replace existing laws."

The Amman deputy, who did not discuss the draft budget's allocations, then proceeded to review problems facing his constituency, offering proposals for infrastructural projects and a better exploitation of the governorate's resources.

Muteir Bustanji

Karak Deputy Muteir Bustanji, who is a member of the House financial committee, called on the government to reduce dependence on borrowing and to encourage local investment.

"We look forward to the adoption of the draft budget as a comprehensive national plan that takes into consideration the enhancement of the state's economic institutions," Bustanji said in a brief speech.

He called on the government to take measures towards addressing the problem of creeping urbanisation and towards developing local resources and giving local government more autonomy by adopting a decentralised approach.

Reflecting the same approach adopted by most other speakers Saturday, Bustanji called for austerity but went on urging the government to allocate funds for building infrastructural projects and public services for his constituency.

Issa Raimoni

Jerash Deputy Issa Raimoni delivered a lengthy speech in which he diagnosed the ills of the Jordanian economy and urged the government to take action on major issues.

He said that there were 84,000 Jordanian families "suffering from severe poverty" and that by the end of 1994, there would be 391,000 unemployed among educated Jordanians.

"Are we capable of finding jobs for all these people over the next five years?" he asked. Raimoni did not say where he obtained the figures from but warned that "the worsening unemployment will sooner or later lead us to a very difficult situation which we may not be able to handle."

He blamed previous governments for the accumulated foreign debt and called for realising the private sector, increasing local investment, instituting administrative reform and adopting a new economic strategy that promotes exports and boosts the Kingdom's balance of trade.

"In fact," Raimoni said, "we need a radical reassessment of everything, beginning with the bread and ending with institutions." He expressed hope that Badran's government, which came along with the democratic transition, would be able to tackle the social and economic challenges, although, he recognised, the prime minister "does not possess the magic wand or Solomon's ring."

On the question of revenues, Bustanji urged the minister of finance to explain the reasons behind the government's "optimistic" projection of increased internal revenues from JD 117 million in 1989 to JD 212 million in 1990, and of increased income tax collection from JD 54 million in 1989 to JD 100 million in 1990, "especially in the light of depressed markets in Jordan, high unemployment and recession."

The Amman deputy called on the government to review its policy of exempting certain establishments, like the Housing Bank, from paying "taxes and fees" that they otherwise should pay.

On projected Arab financial aid to Jordan, which is estimated at JD 162.6 million in the draft budget, Bustanji wanted to know whether the figure would be received in full, and if not, whether the government had plans to meet any shortfalls that might result from Arab and friendly countries not meeting their commitments to Jordan.

The deputy questioned the "assumption of increased foreign loans by 98% over 1989" and asked why Jordan could not avoid such loans since "we have lost confidence in their value in development."

Nabulsi also questioned budgetary policies on foreign and local debts and asked whether Jordan might not be able to avoid paying its foreign debts as part of a concerted effort by the Third World to solve the problem with developed countries.

On the issue of inflation, Deputy Nabulsi urged the finance minister to elaborate on the devaluation of the dinar and its effect noting that inflation was negative before the decline in the value of the Jordanian currency and then shot up to 25 per cent. He questioned whether the 13 per cent inflation envisaged in 1990 is in comparison to 1989 inflation or 1988 inflation figures.

Nabulsi called on

Iraq reveals \$78b budget

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq says it will spend more than 24 billion dinars in 1990 in an inflation-fighting budget aimed at revitalising domestic production after eight years of wartime austerity.

Deputy prime minister for the economy, Saadoun Hammadi, was quoted by the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra Saturday as saying Iraq's total budget for the year topped 24.4 billion dinars (\$78 billion at official rates).

"The new state budget has five priorities: Fighting inflation, reducing foreign debts, accelerating development, providing consumer goods and maintaining the combat potential of the armed forces," he told the paper.

A budget breakdown published in the newspaper gave no figure for defence spending. While reducing the numbers of men in uniform, Iraq has built new sophisticated missile and weapons systems since the ceasefire in its Gulf war with Iran came into force in August, 1988.

Hammadi said the budget was broken down into 10.7 billion dinars (\$32.1 billion) for state expenses including the salaries of government workers which accounted for nearly 40 per cent of this figure.

He said 5.6 billion dinars (\$16.8 billion) was being pumped into investments such as agricultural and industrial projects and 8.1 billion was destined for the public sector, including state enterprises.

A figure of 11.1 billion dinars (\$35.5 billion) had been given for

spending in 1990 but this did not include investments and public sector expenditure.

Iraq has not publicly announced any figures for its foreign debts but Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh told Reuters earlier this month that \$3 billion would be paid off the nation's foreign debt in 1990, estimated in Western news reports at \$35 billion.

Hammadi admitted shortcomings in Iraq's economic policies during the war years, saying Baghdad had been forced to import goods because industry and agriculture had failed to meet the nation's demands.

"Our economy could not provide enough commodities and services to satisfy the increased demand for consumer goods which we had to import from abroad," Al Thawra quoted him as saying.

He said the prices of consumer goods had risen by between 11.6 per cent and 13.1 per cent a year since the war started in September, 1980.

The deputy prime minister gave no figure for Iraq's annual inflation rate estimated by some Western diplomats at 40 per cent.

He said 1.5 billion dinars (\$4.5 billion) would be spent on agricultural projects during the next three years to help Iraq "stop importing food... from abroad."

Iraq imports cereals, meat, vegetable oil and other food mainly from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt and Jordan.

Washington has promised to grant Iraq \$1.8 billion in credits this year, most for agricultural imports.

At official rates the Iraqi dinar is worth \$3.2 but on the black market the figures are reversed with \$1 equating to three dinars.

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The DTB was founded in June, 1988.

They spent many times that amount to set up their own in-house DTB trading centres and to train thousands of employees on the workings of options and futures.

Stock options are used by investors to hedge against significant fluctuations in share prices. An option gives the investor the right to buy or sell a specified number of shares, within a certain period, at a predetermined price.

Friday, more than 12,000 such options — on 14 leading West German shares — were traded on

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the new exchange.

Breuer estimates DTB will reach the break-even point when daily turnover reaches about 40,000 contracts.

Later this year, DTB will introduce futures contracts on the DAX share price index of 30 leading German stocks and on a West German federal government bond.

Options are being traded initially on the following stocks:

Allianz-Holding, BASF, Bayer, BMW, Commerzbank, Daimler-Benz, Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank, Hoechst, Mannesmann, Siemens, Thyssen, Veba and Volkswagen.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1990

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
OF TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC.

DEAD OF A BROKEN HEART

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 10 8
T A 9 5 3
♦ A X 3
♦ K Q

WEST ♦ 7 6 3
9 5
2 10 5 3 2
♦ 10 9 5
♦ 7 10 6 3 2

EAST ♦ 4 5
1 8
3 2
3 4
4 5 7
5 6
Pass

SOUTH ♦ A K 9 4 2
9 7 4
9 7 6
♦ 4

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass 1 ♦ Pass

3 ♦ Pass 4 NT

5 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

Playing at six spades after a club lead, should you take a heart or a diamond finesse for your contract? Answer this question before reading on.

North-South conducted an orderly auction to arrive at an excellent small slam. Once North

confirmed his jump shift was, in part, based on a spade fit, South trotted out Blackwood (and settled for six spades when he learned that an ace was missing).

We hope our question didn't talk you into trying one of the red-suit finesse for your slam. After East wins the ace of clubs and returns the test, declarer can claim his slam as long as hearts are no worse than 4-1.

On the second club declarer should discard a heart from hand, then draw the pending trumps, three rounds in this case. Next comes the king of hearts and, when both defenders follow, it is all over but the shouting.

Declarer crosses to the ace of hearts, ruffs a heart, gets back to the table with the king of diamonds and ruffs another heart. That sets up the club heart, and the ace of diamonds is still as dummy as dummy can discard his diamond lead later.

What if there is a 5-0 heart division? Most unlikely, but all is not yet lost. Declarer can still try the diamond finesse for his fulfilling trick.

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'Steaua's games were rigged'

BRUSSELS (R) — Matches between Romania's two leading soccer clubs, Steaua and Dinamo Bucharest, were rigged, Romanian international striker Rodion Camataru said.

Camataru told the Belgian daily *De Morgen* in an interview published on Friday that Steaua fan Valentin Ceausescu, son of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, was always shouting orders from the stands.

"It was impossible to win against Steaua. They were against us," said Camataru, 31, who joined Belgian club Charleroi this season after three years with Dinamo.

"I played in the (Romanian) cup final in which the Steaua team walked off when an offside goal was disallowed. The next day the goal was declared valid by decree and Steaua won the cup," Camataru said.

"Another time my goal was disallowed for an imaginary offside position. The referee restarted the match as the 11 Dinamo

players surrounded the linesman, and Steaua scored," he

said. Camataru, who won the golden boot as top scorer in European League football with 44 goals in 1987, said reports claiming the Romanian League was entirely manipulated were exaggerated.

"It involved mainly the games between Steaua and Dinamo. Referees did not want to be involved in those games because Valentin Ceausescu was always shouting orders from the stands."

He said Steaua, the army team, only managed to win the European Cup in 1986 after they had stolen the country's best 13 players from other clubs two years earlier — without paying transfer fees.

"Those clubs got some other players instead. If they refused to let go of their best players, they received a phone call from Valentin Ceausescu... Nobody dared to say no because of the terror."

Dinamo, who were associated with Ceausescu's notorious secret police, are seeking to revert to their pre-war name Unirea Tricolor.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take it easy today. The self control. Be realistic. Others are apt to break promises or disconnect from the programme you are promoting. You can handle the changes and profit.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Socially, be willing to go on a jaunt with a good friend and you will meet new people. You will have minor financial benefits today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Friends connected with the arts and sciences will be able to bring you some good times today. Show your affection more clearly to the one you love.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An unusual project from a distance should have your undivided attention. Suggestions from an understanding friend will help very much with mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will be able to make a friend of an influential person today if you are not too direct. Entertain your mate at outside places today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Older friends who understand you are your best outlet for a happy social time now. Some outlet and products that the public like are good for your business.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make a point to be with the friends you understand the best and you have a happy social time. A dream will now come true for you where business is concerned.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You will be at the top of the heap today if you will be very social. Be more understanding of what your attachment wants to be more romantic.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You will have a good time by being social with good friends. Your family as well as your own ideas on business will bring you much money.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) New friends and those of different background to yours are the best for you today. A new attitude towards your attachment will bring

you more happiness.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You would be wise to make friends now of your younger business contacts. Business activities or interest from a distance can help you now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Greater coordination in recreations with those you will make your entertaining more enjoyable. You can have much romance today, but don't overdo.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) Now you will be able to entertain your friends and repay the social obligations that you have built up. You will have your most romantic time now.

PIRATES: (January 21 to February 19) Make a point to be with the friends you understand the best and you have a happy social time.

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